

1 Chronicles 6:60

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And out of the tribe of Benjamin; Geba with her suburbs, and Alemeth with her suburbs, and Anathoth with her suburbs. All their cities throughout their families were thirteen cities.

Analysis

Genealogical Significance: This verse appears within the Levitical priesthood and worship section of Chronicles' genealogical framework. The Hebrew term כֹּהֵן (kohen) - priest is central to understanding this passage's purpose. The Chronicler, writing to post-exilic Israel (c. 450-400 BCE), uses these genealogies not merely as historical records but as theological statements about covenant continuity and divine faithfulness.

The genealogical structure serves multiple purposes:

1. establishing Israel's connection to God's creation plan from Adam
2. legitimizing post-exilic community's claim to covenant promises
3. emphasizing Judah and Levi's special roles in God's redemptive plan,
4. demonstrating that despite exile, God's covenant purposes continue.

The selection and arrangement of names is intentional, highlighting Mediatorial role of priesthood.

Chronicles diverges from Genesis and Samuel-Kings in its genealogical presentation, reflecting the Chronicler's distinct theological agenda. Where earlier texts focus on narrative history, Chronicles emphasizes continuity, legitimacy, and hope for restoration. This verse contributes to the larger argument that the post-exilic community is the rightful heir of God's ancient covenant promises.

Historical Context

Post-Exilic Context: The Chronicler wrote during the Persian period (450-400 BCE) to a community returned from Babylonian exile, struggling with identity and purpose. These genealogies answered crucial questions: Who are we? What is our relationship to ancient Israel? Do God's promises still apply to us?

The historical setting influences the text's emphasis on Levitical genealogies and priestly lines. Ancient Near Eastern cultures valued genealogies for establishing land rights, royal legitimacy, and tribal identity. Chronicles' genealogies served similar functions while adding theological depth. The inclusion of specific names and details reflects the author's access to temple archives, royal records, and earlier biblical texts.

Archaeological evidence from Persian-period Judah shows a small, struggling community centered around Jerusalem and the rebuilt temple. The genealogies reinforced their connection to the glorious past and provided hope for future restoration through God's covenant faithfulness.

Related Passages

Romans 10:9 — Confession and belief for salvation

Ephesians 2:8 — Salvation by grace through faith

Study Questions

1. How does understanding genealogies as theological statements rather than mere historical records change your reading of Chronicles and other biblical genealogies?
2. What does this verse teach about God's faithfulness across generations, and how does that apply to your own family's spiritual legacy?
3. How does Mediatorial role of priesthood connect to the New Testament revelation of Jesus Christ as the fulfillment of Old Testament promises?

Interlinear Text

וּמִמֶּנִּי הַ	בְּנֵימָן	אֶת	גִּבְעָה	אֶת	מִגְרֶשׁ יָהּ	אֶת
And out of the tribe	of Benjamin	H853	Geba	H853	with her suburbs	H853
H4294	H1144		H1387		H4054	
עַל מֶת	אֶת	מִגְרֶשׁ יָהּ	אֶת	עֲנַת וְ	אֶת	מִגְרֶשׁ יָהּ
and Alemeth	H853	with her suburbs	H853	and Anathoth	H853	with her suburbs
H5964		H4054		H6068		H4054
כָּל	עִיר	שָׁלֹשׁ	עֲשָׂרָה	עִיר		
H3605	All their cities	were thirteen	H6240	All their cities		
	H5892	H7969		H5892		
בְּמִשְׁפְּחוֹתֵיהֶם:						
throughout their families						
H4940						

Additional Cross-References

Jeremiah 1:1 (Parallel theme): The words of Jeremiah the son of Hilkiah, of the priests that were in Anathoth in the land of Benjamin: